

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 844

By Tidwell

A RESOLUTION to congratulate David R. Rhodes upon his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is David R. Rhodes, now deceased, who devoted thirty years to the education and instruction of young students and athletes in Tennessee; on March 18, 2006, Mr. Rhodes will be inducted posthumously into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Hall of Fame, a recognition most befitting of his outstanding service to Tennessee high schools and their students; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rhodes graduated from Perry County High School, where he was a four-year starter on the Perry County Vikings varsity basketball team. A talented player, he was named as a member of the Middle Tennessee Invitational Tournament All-Tournament Team, All-District, and All-Region Teams, the 1969 *Nashville Banner* All-District Team, the *Nashville Banner* 1968-69 All Mid-State Team, the *Nashville Tennessean* All-Midstate Team in 1968 and 1969, the Associated Press All-State Team in 1968 and 1969, the Sports Writers' All-State Team in 1968 and 1969, and the TSSAA All Star West Team 1969; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, Perry County High School senior David Rhodes was named the *Nashville Banner* Most Valuable Player and the *Nashville Tennessean* Midstate Player of the Year, and he lead the Midstate in scoring in both 1968 and 1969; he scored 41 points in a game against Dickson and 49 points in a Christmas Tournament against Lewisburg; and

WHEREAS, David Rhodes then attended Ole Miss University on a full basketball scholarship, where from 1969-1973 he amassed an average of eleven points per game; in 1972, he led the South Eastern Conference in free throw percentage and set the record for most consecutive free throws (44); and

WHEREAS, in 1974, Coach Rhodes commenced his illustrious, fourteen-year coaching career at Perry County High School, where he served in 1974-1975 as Assistant Basketball Coach before taking the position of Head Coach of the Vikings varsity boys and girls Basketball teams in 1975-76; and

WHEREAS, Coach Rhodes coached the girl's varsity squad until 1981-82, amassing an outstanding 111-69 win-loss record for a win percentage of .642. Under his skillful leadership, the Lady Vikings won three District championships, two Regional championships, and amassed numerous State and Sub-State appearances; their State Tournament record was 2-2; and

WHEREAS, from 1975-76 until 1987-88, Coach Rhodes put up even more impressive numbers with the boy's varsity team. There he amassed a 265-93 total win-loss record for a .740 win percentage, bringing his combined win-loss record to 376-155 and a percentage of .708; and

WHEREAS, thanks to his dedication and peerless coaching abilities, the Vikings boy's varsity team won eight District championships and four Regional championships, and amassed numerous State and Sub-State appearances; they were named State Champions in both 1976 and 1977, and their State Tournament record was 7-2; and

WHEREAS, Coach Rhodes was always a picture of action on the bench, directing his team, shouting instructions, and questioning the judgment of the officials; this dynamic, fiery and excitable coach was well known and enjoyed for his colorful courtside demeanor; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, David Rhodes was named Coach of the Year in 1976; his superior knowledge and passionate love of the game was readily apparent, and he was truly one of the greatest ambassadors of basketball in the history of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, David Rhodes retired from coaching in 1988, and subsequently accepted the position of Superintendent of Perry County Schools. He was a member of the board of the

Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents (TOSS) for twelve years, serving as TOSS president in 2002 and TOSS secretary for six years; in 2004, he was named as the South Central Superintendent of the Year; and

WHEREAS, the significance of David Rhodes's dedication to excellence cannot be adequately measured by winning seasons alone; his positive impact on the lives of his students, athletes, colleagues, and fellow coaches still resounds in the community today; and

WHEREAS, his educational, athletic, and civic endeavors aside, David Rhodes always maintained the highest family values, and was most grateful for the love and companionship he shared with his wife, Stella, with whom he shared two sons, Bryant and Mitchell; he was also extremely devoted to his brother, Mike Rhodes, whom he coached when Mike was himself one of Perry County High School's ace scoring stars; and

WHEREAS, for the above accomplishments, his impeccable moral standards, and impressive work ethic, Coach David Rhodes has been selected for posthumous induction into the TSSAA Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, David Rhodes, as a man of true character and commitment, exemplified the type of selfless community servant, civic leader, and educator whom fellow Tennesseans admire for their tireless efforts to mold the State's youth, guiding them with solid principles and high standards, both on the athletic field and in the classroom; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join in celebrating the posthumous induction of Coach David R. Rhodes into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, reflecting fondly upon his substantial legacy as an administrator, coach, and community servant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.